BIOLOGY 659: SEMINAR IN EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY
Course Information & Policies
Fall 2016

Meeting time: Mon 10:00-11:00 AM
Meeting location: 310 Wilson Hall

Instructor: David Pfennig, 320 Wilson Hall
962-6958
dpfennig@email.unc.edu

Office hours: by appointment

Course requirements: The course is open to graduate students and advanced undergraduates in the biological sciences. Undergraduates must be participating in research and have completed 201, 202 and 205 and taken at least one advanced (400 level and above) ecology or evolution course. Undergraduates MUST have permission of the instructor to enroll (or remain) in the class.

Course goals: By the end of the semester, students will be able to articulate recent findings and advances in the field of Evolutionary Biology.

Readings
Readings will be selected by students from the reference journals chosen on the first day of class. The paper(s) for a given week MUST be uploaded to the course Sakai site by 5pm WEDNESDAY of the PREVIOUS week.

Class format and evaluation
The class will consist of student-led discussions of the
primary literature. The class will culminate in a final exam, which will consist of a class discussion of the semester as a whole and an analysis of what patterns emerged over the readings throughout the semester.

Students’ final grades will be evaluated on the basis of the following:

- Attendance and participation in ALL class activities and completion of assignments: **60% of grade**
- Synopses/Discussion Leader: **30% of grade**
- Final exam: **10%**

**Assignments**

*Student-led discussions*

*For leaders:* Throughout the semester, a student will select 1 or 2 recently published paper (published within last 6-9 months).

*For participants:* If you are not a leader in a given week, you must read the papers before hand, and generate at least one question/comment/discussion point per paper. You must ask these questions AT the discussion. *Participants may be called upon at random.*

**Technology**

Computers are not allowed in the class. All papers or handouts must be printed and brought in as hard copies to the class.

*Note:* Unforeseen circumstances can arise at any time during the semester, which may require a change to the class schedule or policies herein. In such circumstances, the instructors reserve the right to make any necessary changes and will notify the students of such changes as soon as possible.